

R E M A R K S

The position was taken in the Office Action that this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: (1) a method of using an acidic reduction treatment solution and (2) a method of using an alkaline reduction treatment solution.

Applicants were required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicants elect species (1), namely a method of using an acidic reduction treatment.

The claims readable on the elected species are claims 1, 2, 4, 8 to 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 27 and 29.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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